



### **Summary**

Today's sermon, part of our stewardship series, focuses on the biblical principle of tithing, as highlighted in Malachi 3:8-11. Pastor David acknowledges the discomfort some may feel when discussing finances in church but emphasizes the importance of understanding tithing as a spiritual practice rather than a financial obligation. The sermon explores the joy and peace that come from generosity and trusting God with our resources. It challenges us to view tithing not as a burden, but as an opportunity to align our lives with God's teachings and experience the blessings of living a generous life.

### **Key Verses**

1. Malachi 3:8-11
2. 2 Corinthians 9:7
3. Matthew 6:21
4. Luke 6:38

### **Key Takeaways**

1. Tithing is a spiritual practice that reflects our trust in God.
2. Generosity brings joy and peace that cannot be purchased.

3. God's love for us is not dependent on our financial contributions.
4. Stewardship is about aligning our lives with God's teachings.
5. Faith and obedience in financial matters can lead to spiritual growth.

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Have I prayed about my finances with God?
2. Am I trusting God with my financial decisions?
3. How can I grow in generosity and align my giving with biblical principles?

## **5 Day Devotional**

### **Day 1: Understanding Stewardship**

**Devotional** Stewardship is a concept that goes beyond mere financial management. It is about recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God and that we are called to manage these gifts wisely. In Malachi 3:8-11, God challenges us to bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, promising to open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. This is not just about money; it's about trust and obedience. When we see ourselves as stewards rather than owners, we experience a sense of freedom and liberation. We are reminded that our true security lies not in our possessions but in our relationship with God.

**Bible Verse** Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.' - Malachi 3:8-11

**Reflection Question** How can you shift your perspective from being an owner to being a steward of God's blessings in your life?

**Quote** The point is, God owns it all and has called us to see ourselves as stewards, not owners. And that is freedom. That's liberation.

**Prayer** Lord, help me to see everything I have as a gift from You. Teach me to be a faithful steward of Your blessings and to trust in Your provision. Amen.

## **Day 2: The Joy of Generosity**

**Devotional** Generosity is a spiritual discipline that brings immense joy and peace. When we give, we are not just meeting the needs of the church or others; we are aligning ourselves with God's nature. Jesus taught that it is more blessed to give than to receive. This joy is not just a fleeting emotion but a deep-seated sense of fulfillment and purpose. Pastor David shared a story of a family who found freedom from anxiety through tithing. Their experience is a testament to the transformative power of generosity. When we give, we are participating in God's work and experiencing the joy that comes from living in alignment with His will.

**Bible Verse** Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.' - Deuteronomy 16:17

**Reflection Question** What steps can you take to experience the joy of generosity in your own life?

**Quote** There actually is great joy found in the command to tithe that's in scripture.

**Prayer** Heavenly Father, fill my heart with the joy of giving. Help me to be generous and to experience the peace and fulfillment that comes from aligning my life with Your will. Amen.

## **Day 3: Trusting in God's Provision**

**Devotional** Trusting God with our finances is a significant step of faith. It requires us to believe that God will provide for our needs even when we give a portion of our income back to Him. This trust is not just about money; it's about our entire relationship with God. When we trust Him with our finances, we are acknowledging His sovereignty and goodness. Pastor David emphasized that the motivation for our giving should be our trust in God. This trust leads to a deeper relationship with Him and a greater sense of peace and security.

**Bible Verse** Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.' - Proverbs 3:9-10

**Reflection Question** In what areas of your life do you need to trust God more fully, especially regarding your finances?

**Quote** The only reason we should ever share with God give to our church is a matter of our faith. As a response to the love and care and generosity God has shown us, the motivation for our giving should be our trust in God.

**Prayer** Lord, help me to trust You with all aspects of my life, including my finances. Teach me to rely on Your provision and to honor You with my resources. Amen.

#### **Day 4: The Peace of Obedience**

**Devotional** Obedience to God's commands brings a unique peace that cannot be found elsewhere. When we follow His teachings, including the command to tithe, we align ourselves with His will and experience a sense of rightness and peace. Pastor David shared a story of a woman who felt a profound sense of freedom and peace after she began tithing. This peace is a result of living in obedience to God and trusting in His provision. It is a reminder that true peace comes from God and is a gift that surpasses all understanding.

**Bible Verse** You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.' - Isaiah 26:3

**Reflection Question** How can you experience the peace that comes from obedience to God's commands in your daily life?

**Quote** No matter how much money you hold in your heart and in your bank account and in your life, you will not be able to purchase the kind of peace that God will give you if you fully surrender your life to him and to his way and to his teachings.

**Prayer** Heavenly Father, help me to experience the peace that comes from living in obedience to Your commands. Teach me to trust in Your provision and to find my security in You. Amen.

#### **Day 5: Living Generously**

**Devotional** Living generously is a reflection of God's character. When we prioritize sharing and generosity, we are living like God has lived towards us. This lifestyle of generosity not only meets the needs of others but also brings blessings into our own lives. Pastor David emphasized that there are rewards for tithing, not just financial wealth, but the blessing of being right with God. This alignment with God's will brings a sense of fulfillment and purpose. As we live generously, we are participating in God's work and experiencing the joy and peace that come from living in alignment with His will.

**Bible Verse** Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.' - Luke 6:38

**Reflection Question** How can you make generosity a priority in your life and experience the blessings that come from living in alignment with God's will?

**Quote** When sharing and generosity becomes a priority for a family, we learn that the blessing we get is knowing that we are living like God has lived towards us. Being filled with grace and generosity and goodness and abundance of ever flowing faithfulness.

**Prayer** Lord, help me to live generously and to reflect Your character in all that I do. Teach me to prioritize sharing and to experience the blessings that come from living in alignment with Your will. Amen.